

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS MANAMA 000809

SIPDIS

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
CPA BAGHDAD FOR CPIC  
USCINCENT FOR PAO AND POLAD  
STATE FOR NEA/PPD MQUINN, ACASPER, PAGNEW; NEA/ARP  
LONDON FOR HAMBLEY AND NKHOURY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KPAO](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PRESS GUIDANCE ON ALLEGED ABUSE OF  
FEMALE IRAQI POWS

1. Embassy Manama requests guidance to respond to press accounts about abuse of female POWs in prisons in Iraq. Several stories ran on the front pages of Bahrain's Arabic and English language dailies on 5/29 (see para three for headlines), quoting sources in Baghdad about the rape of female prisoners. These sources included the two Iraqi NGOs, "The Union of Detainees and Prisoners" and "International Occupation Watch Center," and professors at Baghdad University. The Gulf Daily News reported, "a mother a four, arrested in December, killed herself after being raped by US guards in front of her husband." The Bahrain Tribune reported, "According to Iman Khamas, head of the International Occupation Watch Center, a woman prisoner said her cellmate had been rendered unconscious for 48 hours. She had been raped seventeen times in one day by Iraqi police in the presence of American soldiers." Arabic daily Akhbar Al Khaleej also reported that, "several women POWs were killed by their families after coming out of Abu Ghraib pregnant due to rape."

2. In addition to the print press, Al Arabiya Satellite Channel carried an exclusive, seven-minute interview with recently-freed Iraqi woman POW Emtithal Al Qassimi on 5/29 at 1300 (the interview was re-aired throughout the day and again on 5/30). The ex-POW, in her late fifties, was dressed in a black hijab and she described her treatment and the treatment of other inmates in the Baghdad airport and later in Abu Ghraib. She stated that she witnessed approximately 120 Iraqi prisoners being stripped down and then trampled on by their American captors. She also said that she had seen female prisoners sustain permanent damage, including partial paralysis, as a result of their injuries. (Comment: A PAS FSN reported that her mother burst into tears after watching the interview.)

3. Headlines:

- "Horrible stories about raped Iraqi women prisoners in Abu Ghraib," Akhbar Al Khaleej

- "Terrifying Testimonies of Occupation Soldiers Raping Women Prisoners and the Tragic Fate of These Women," Akhbar Al Khaleej

- "Women Raped at Abu Ghraib Jail" Bahrain Tribune

- "Abu Ghraib at Centre of New Storm: Women Raped in Jail," Gulf Daily News

4. This request for guidance has been cleared by NAVCENT PAO.

5. Minimize considered.  
NEUMANN